

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In March 1953, the Director of the German Academy of Sciences, Josef Naas, advised the heads of all institutes affiliated with the Academy that they were requested to dismiss all scientists working for them who lived in West Berlin. Naas added as justification that these scientists were permanently exposed to Western influence. He furthermore stated that this step was only one of several designed to protect East German scientists from Western influence and to associate them more closely with Russian science. This had been requested by Deputy Minister President Walter Ulbricht at a special Academy session on 22 and 23 January 1953.
2. Most of the Institute heads protested the step to Naas, pointing out that the performance of the institutes would decrease sharply if the measure was actually put in effect.^{1/} As a result of the protests, the Personnel Department of the Academy of Sciences ordered that all technical personnel up to and including engineers working in Academy Institutes who lived in West Berlin should be requested to move to East Berlin immediately. Those who failed to do so by 15 April 1953 would be dismissed. No rule was established for scientists unable to move to East Berlin by the deadline. According to a statement by Naas, each case would be considered individually.

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- 1/ ☐ Comment. It is estimated that of the roughly 40,000 people living in West Berlin who are employed in East Berlin, about 1,500 are scientists and technical personnel from the rank of engineer up. This figure, of course, not only includes personnel of Academy Institutes, but also other scientists and technicians such as doctors.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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